

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6846

To ensure that any agreement with Iraq containing a security commitment or arrangement is concluded as a treaty or is approved by Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure that any agreement with Iraq containing a security commitment or arrangement is concluded as a treaty or is approved by Congress.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Iraq Security Agree-
5 ment Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) On November 26, 2007, President George
2 W. Bush and Prime Minister of Iraq Nouri al-Maliki
3 signed the Declaration of Principles for a Long-
4 Term Relationship of Cooperation and Friendship
5 Between the Republic of Iraq and the United States
6 of America (in this Act referred to as the “Declara-
7 tion of Principles”), with the goal of concluding a
8 final agreement or agreements between the United
9 States and Iraq by July 31, 2008, “with respect to
10 the political, cultural, economic, and security
11 spheres.”

12 (2) The Declaration of Principles contemplates
13 the United States “providing security assurances
14 and commitments to the Republic of Iraq to deter
15 foreign aggression.”

16 (3) In 1992, pursuant to section 1457 of the
17 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
18 1991 (50 U.S.C. 404c), the executive branch sub-
19 mitted a report to Congress on then-existing security
20 commitments and arrangements.

21 (4) The report described in paragraph (3) de-
22 fined a “security commitment” as an “obligation,
23 binding under international law, of the United
24 States to act in the common defense in the event of
25 an armed attack on that country.” The report noted

1 that all current security commitments of the United
2 States are “embodied in treaties which receive the
3 advice and consent of the Senate.”

4 (5) The report defined a “security arrange-
5 ment” as a “pledge by the United States to take
6 some action in the event of a threat to that coun-
7 try’s security. Security arrangements typically oblige
8 the United States to consult with a country in the
9 event of a threat to its security. They may appear
10 in legally-binding agreements, such as treaties or ex-
11 ecutive agreements, or in political documents, such
12 as policy declarations by the President, Secretary of
13 State or Secretary of Defense.”

14 (6) The United States Ambassador to Iraq,
15 Ryan Crocker, has stated that the agreements to be
16 concluded as anticipated by the Declaration of Prin-
17 ciples will “deal with the status of U.S. and coalition
18 forces in Iraq past 2008” and “set the broad param-
19 eters of the overall bilateral relationship in every
20 field”.

21 (7) On November 26, 2007, Assistant to the
22 President and Deputy National Security Advisor for
23 Iraq and Afghanistan, Lieutenant General Douglas
24 Lute, stated, “We don’t anticipate now that these

1 negotiations [under the Declaration of Principles]
2 will lead to . . . formal inputs from Congress.”

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) any agreement that sets forth the “broad
6 parameters of the overall bilateral relationship [as
7 between the United States and the Republic of Iraq]
8 in every field,” particularly one that includes a secu-
9 rity commitment or arrangement provided to the Re-
10 public of Iraq by the United States, would result in
11 serious military, political, and economic obligations
12 for the United States, and thus, consistent with past
13 practice, should involve a joint decision by the execu-
14 tive and legislative branches; and

15 (2) a short-term extension of the mandate of
16 the Multi-National Force in Iraq (currently provided
17 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790
18 (2007)), would, in concert with Iraqi law, provide
19 United States forces with the authorities, privileges,
20 and immunities necessary for those forces to carry
21 out their mission in Iraq.

22 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT ON SECURITY AGREEMENTS.**

23 (a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days
24 after date of the enactment of this Act, and every Feb-
25 ruary 1 thereafter, the President shall submit to the ap-

1 appropriate congressional committees a report (in both clas-
2 sified and unclassified form) on United States security
3 commitments to, and arrangements with, other countries.

4 (b) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under sub-
5 section (a) shall include the following:

6 (1) The text, and a description, of each security
7 commitment to, or arrangement with, one or more
8 other countries, whether based upon—

9 (A) a formal document (including a mutual
10 defense treaty, a status of forces agreement, a
11 pre-positioning arrangement or agreement, an
12 access agreement, or a non-binding declaration
13 or letter); or

14 (B) an expressed policy, whether expressed
15 orally or in writing.

16 (2) An assessment of the need to continue,
17 modify, or discontinue each of those commitments
18 and arrangements in view of the changing inter-
19 national security situation.

20 **SEC. 5. CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.**

21 Not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary
23 of Defense shall consult with the appropriate congres-
24 sional committees about the negotiations pursuant to the
25 Declaration of Principles. After the initial consultation,

1 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall
2 keep such committees fully and currently informed regard-
3 ing the status of the negotiations. Prior to finalizing any
4 agreement that includes a security commitment or security
5 arrangement with Iraq, the Secretary of State should pro-
6 vide the text of the agreement to the appropriate congres-
7 sional committees.

8 **SEC. 6. PROHIBITIONS.**

9 (a) PROHIBITION ON ENTRY INTO FORCE OF CER-
10 TAIN AGREEMENTS.—No agreement containing a security
11 commitment to, or security arrangement with, the Repub-
12 lic of Iraq, may enter into force except pursuant to Article
13 II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United
14 States (relating to the making of treaties) or unless au-
15 thorized by a law enacted on or after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act pursuant to Article I, section 7, clause
17 2 of the Constitution (relating to the enactment of laws).

18 (b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—No funds
19 may be obligated or expended to implement an agreement
20 containing a security commitment to, or security arrange-
21 ment with, the Republic of Iraq, unless it enters into force
22 pursuant to Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitu-
23 tion of the United States or is authorized by a law enacted
24 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act pursuant
25 to Article I, section 7, clause 2 of the Constitution.

1 (c) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order for
2 either House of Congress to consider any bill, resolution,
3 amendment, or conference report that provides budget au-
4 thority for the implementation of an agreement entered
5 into in contravention of subsection (a).

6 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
7 **FINED.**

8 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Armed Services of the
11 Senate;

12 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
13 Senate;

14 (3) the Committee on Armed Services of the
15 House of Representatives; and

16 (4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
17 House of Representatives.

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